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ABSTRACT

Described is a game which provides a method for teaching students to locate cities and towns on a map. Students are provided with a list of descriptive phrases which stand for the name of a city, e.g., hot weather town (Summerville, Georgia); a chocolate candy bar (Hershey, Pennsylvania). Using a map, students must then try to find the name of a city that fits the description. Once students are familiar with the procedure, they can develop their own name games. Provided are examples of descriptions of cities and towns in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, New York, and Ohio. (RM)

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THE NAME GAME

by

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March, 1984

Your students are seated quietly, listening to your directions. All of a sudden a late student comes into your class exclaiming, "There's a big fire!" Immediately, this student and the fire become the center of attention. "Where's the fire?" the other students ask.

Locating places is of primary importance in our daily lives. Because of the importance we place on locating places, we teach students map locational skills. Yet, merely asking students to locate the name of a city, mountain, or river becomes boring if overused.

To overcome this boredom, the NAME GAME was developed. This activity provides a more interesting and challenging form of practice.

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To play the game: (1) Provide your students with a list of descriptive phrases which stand for the name of a city (e.g. hot weather town - Summerville, GA; a chocolate candy bar - Hershey, PA). (2) Have your students read the list of descriptive phrases. Then using the list of cities on the map, try to find the name of a city which fits the description. (3) Once the name of the city is located students may then locate the city on the map.

Once students are familiar with the procedure, they can develop their own NAME GAMES. And imagine the vocabulary building which also goes on when constructing or playing the game!

Here are a few to get you started.

Using the Pennsylvania state map find the names of cities or towns that will fit these clues:

1. A glittering city. (Gold)
2. A free city. (Liberty)
3. A fine china. (Lenox)
4. A chocolate candy bar. (Hershey)
5. A town in the center of things. (Middletown)
6. A small town. (Littleton)
7. A grass colored place where a queen lives. (Greencastle)
8. A town that has wet roads. (Water Street)
9. A town that likes to go on overnight hikes. (Camptown)
10. A town that didn't do less. (Dunmore)

11. A place that developed from a bud. (Bloomsburg)
12. A sleeping car. (Bedford)
13. A town in the middle of things. (Centerville)
14. A town that likes to build dams. (Beaver)
15. A place that isn't wide. (Narrowsburg)
16. The man who helps the maid by opening the front door. (Butler)
17. The ocean that is to the east of the United States. (Atlantic)
18. A city in Russia. (Moscow)
19. Bad, bad Mr. Brown. (LeRoy)
20. The lady that lives with the king. (Queen)

Using the North Carolina state map, find the names of cities or towns that will fit these clues:

1. A place that is winter-white and steep. (Snow Hill)
2. A place where cows and chickens live. (Farmville)
3. A place that isn't poor or round. (Rich Square)
4. A place that is not the roots of trees. (Pinetops)
5. A hogs leg that goes back and forth. (Rockingham)
6. A tribe of Indians. (Cherokee)
7. A United States sheriff, like Matt Dillon. (Marshall)
8. A place that gets hot and hurts when you touch it. (Burnsville)
9. Danie's town. (Boone)
10. A stone that is breezy. (Blowing Rock)
11. Two trees just alike. (Twin Oaks)
12. A space between two mountains that is not shallow. (Keep Gap)
13. A place that might steer a plane. (Pilot Mountain)

14. A place Adam and Eve might live. (Eden)
15. A group of trees that aren't sleeping. (Wake Forest)
16. A free town. (Liberty)
17. A city that doesn't want less skulls. (Morehead City)
18. A long necked, graceful bird worth 25 cents. (Swan Quarter)
19. A young cat bird. (Kitty Hawk)
20. A town in the Far East. (Oriental)

Using the New York state map find the name of cities or towns that will fit these clues:

1. A town in the middle that is not round. (Central Square)
2. A place that isn't high. (Lowville)
3. A town that likes boats that go with the wind. (Salem)
4. A place that wants to know if someone is sick and going down. (Hoosick Falls)
5. A city in Egypt. (Cairo)
6. A place that isn't up. (Downsville)
7. A place where Eli might live. (Whitney Point)
8. A place that likes colored sticks. (Painted Post)
9. An island 90 miles from Florida. (Cuba)
10. J.F.K's town. (Kennedy)
11. A place you may need a key to get into. (Lockport)
12. A place you might find dictionaries. (Webster)
13. The string in the middle of a candle that is not soft. (Hardwick)
14. A place that tells you what to do with your money at the bank. (Deposit)
15. A place where Adam and Eve might have lived. (Eden)
16. A flower that has thorn on its bush. (Rose)

17. A big town in Pennsylvania. (Philadelphia)
18. A town that is all wet. (Watertown)
19. The state south of Georgia. (Florida)
20. A city of Denmark. (Copenhagen)

Using the Ohio state map find the name of cities or towns that will fit these clues:

1. A round town. (Circleville)
2. A town getting well. (Fort Recovery)
3. A town that needs straightening out. (Croodsville)
4. A town for strangers. (Newcomerstown)
5. A town that likes people. (Friendship)
6. A town whose water is going underground or down. (Sinking Spring)
7. Mr. Bonaparte's town. (Napoleon)
8. A town that is not old. (Youngstown)
9. A really hurting town. (Painsville)
10. A person who takes your car at the hotel. (Parkman)
11. A city in Portugal. (Lisbon)
12. A butterbean. (Lima)
13. A place where a lot of people who fix cars live. (Mechanicsburg)
14. A town in Canada. (Toronto)
15. A pasture that is not for women. (Mansfield)
16. Tiny stones. (Pebbles)
17. A big group of trees. (Forest)
18. The capital of Georgia. (Atlanta)
19. A town that must have a lot of soup. (Cambell)
20. What is seen at dawn. (Rising Sun)

Give your students the opportunity to put their imaginations to work developing and playing NAME GAMES.